I have a dream.
Hold it right there!! I'll catch you! Where'd she go-!?
That dream is.

「island」

On a voyage to the "outside world".

translated by *kurim* for **MangaHelpers** com
edited by *barbapapa* for **KEFI** org

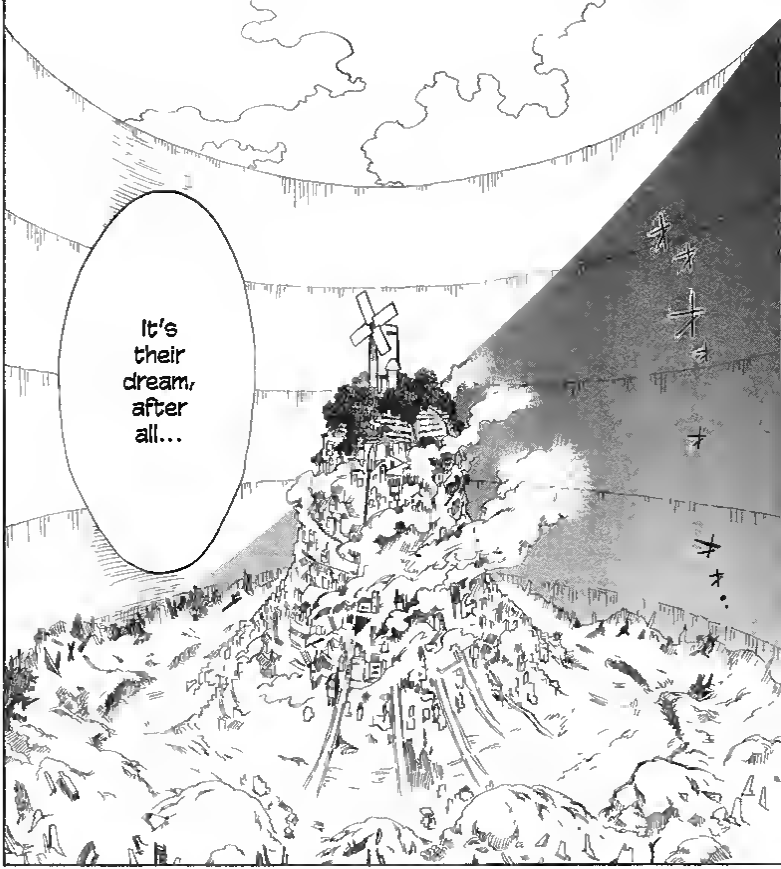
island
アイランド

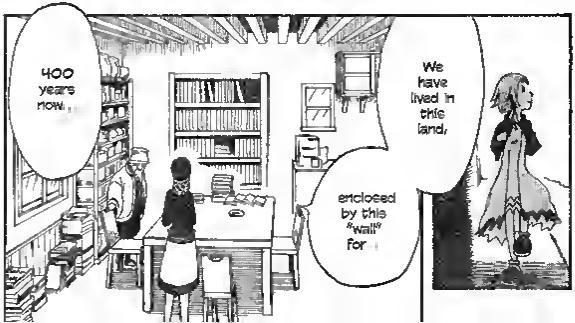
I compose. She spins. A story of hope for tomorrow –

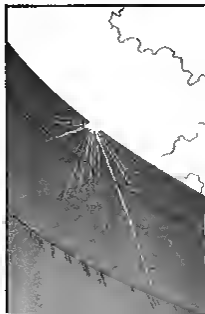
Komi Naoshi
古味直志

Aira!! Show yourself!!
Dammit... Where'd she go...
KNOCK! KNOCK!
Wah- Ahh-!! Where are you!!
What's going on? Marua?
Crap! Let's get out of here, Mar!
Eh! Eh!?
WHA!
...ARE YOU UP TO MISCHIEF AGAIN?
Even you are calling this mischief!?
This is a grand experiment!!
MOM~ I'M GOING OUT!
Did your books collapse again?
Oh?

ぬっ
Ahh, I beg your pardon, Elder...
What's going on?
It was Aira
Hah!
That's fine She's still a child, after all
That child must be heading off to her grand experiment again, eh?
Dear me...
クス...
To cross over this "wall" and reach the other side
Wouldn't it be wonderful, though...
To go to the outside world
If it could bear fruit

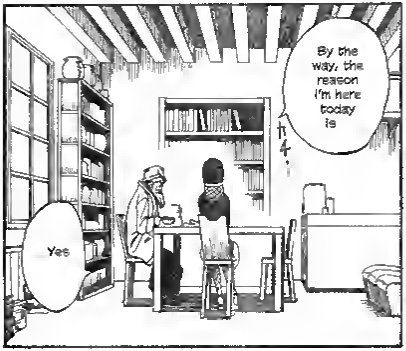

It's their dream, after all...


400 years now...
We have lived in this land,
enclosed by this "wall" for



While us women catch what little sunlight we have to grow plants...
Somehow, we've managed to survive until now...
Hm
Thank you
The men dig into the land... excavating ancient artifacts...
Only one person remains who can read these words now
However,
After all this time, our people have forgotten our culture,
and our language is all but gone.
That person is Marue.

If we don't let her indulge in her dreams now...


By the way, the reason I'm here today is
Yes

She is a very special child.

Yes... It may be especially cruel to that child, but we can't spare her...
She has no choice but to accept it
That is how we have come to survive

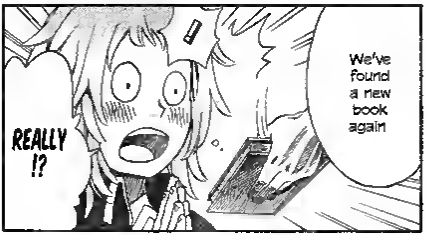
Yes...

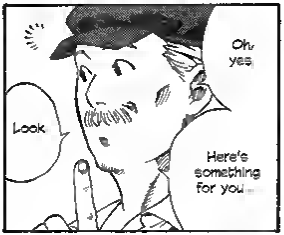
Aira will turn 14 years of age today

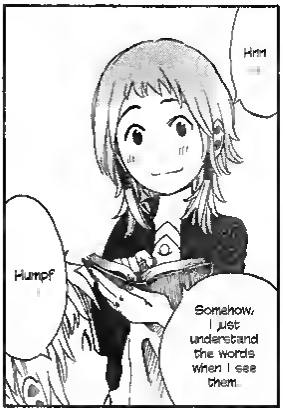
It's heart-breaking, isn't it...
C'mon
T-thank you
M-Mari!
Eh?
WH-
WHAT!?
Oh? Marue-chan?
G-good after-noon!
Ah, well- Nice timing
I was just on my way to your house
Hnya!

GUILTY AS CHARGED
.....
Earlier today, Aira, that brat, broke a window
She's such a trouble-some kid...
Well, you see~?
That explains it.

By the way, have you seen Aira?
Aira?


REALLY !?
We've found a new book again


Look
Oh, yes
Here's something for you...


Hmm
Humpf
Somehow, I just understand the words when I see them.

...Can you read it?
Yes
It looks like a story book.
Why can you read things like this, Marue?

But, you know, Manue-chan, it's fine to read the books
Just make sure you don't repeat what happened last time, hm?
Eh?
There's also mathematics, which is especially wonderful~
There's stuff like Alkaue's Law and the principle of agglomeration, and geography and physics
It's really interesting, you know?
???
Uh...
はっはっは
All right See you later!
Everybody is looking forward to listening to your stories
It wouldn't be funny if the tunnel collapsed and you got flattened like a pancake!
Remember... the no. 4 tunnel near the well? Don't go there again without permission, or secretly read the books there, right?
AH-YES
No matter how much you love books, that place is out-of-bounds, right
Aira, sorry to keep you waiting!
テテテテ
は!!
YOU FOOL !!!

I'M ...! I'M SORRY!! I'M VERY SORRY !!
THIS WAY! RUN~!!
Is that Aira!? Wait right there !!
I will now report on the results of our experiments
Experiment to manufacture a super-long ladder didn't make it to the manufacturing stage
Experiment to use gunpowder to launch a human cannon is too dangerous, and has to be postponed and
First off, scaling the wall bare-handed failed just as we expected from the start
Just as I thought, this is all very difficult
But of course! Nobody has ever gotten out before, right?
Ahaha... Well, that's true, but

I wonder what it's like... this outside world...
What do you think, Aira?
Huh?
...Hm- I suppose...
Yeah, I know!
It must be a really big and open land that stretches far and wide, with lots of trees and grass growing.
Yeah, yeah!
With animals... and plants... that we've never seen before...!
There would be lots and lots of things we don't know anything about!
All they worry about is what to eat day after day. They can't do anything.
Man, what do you think is there?
The people here are just so stupid!
Me?
I want to see... the "ocean"
"OCEAN"?

It'd fill this place completely, and more... like a very, very, very big pool...!
There's something called the ocean outside this wall.
I've read about it in books.
Yup!
And and there are also lizards as big as a house called dinosaurs!!
FOR REAL!?
SALTY!? WHAT THE HECK, ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
I'm serious!!
So yeah! The water there is veeeeery salty too! And there's more!
Right!?
Whoa— I want to see that too
Yeah... We'll definitely go.
We'll definitely go there.
TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD ...!!
トン...

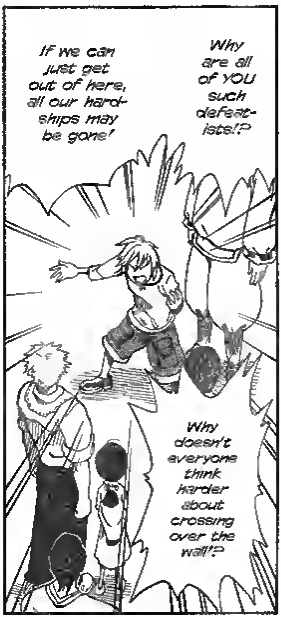
Aira! There you are!
Ah!
WE'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU, AIRA!!
ピク
WHA- WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH IT THIS TIME!!
THAT'S OUR LINE!!
You are incorrigible. Always one mischief after another...
Return the timber you stole from me!
You broke my pot too, didn't you!?
Where is the wagon you took from the shed, Aira?
STOP PLAYING A FOOL!!
For a very important experiment!
Ah, see... All that was just for, you know...
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY A CHILD!?

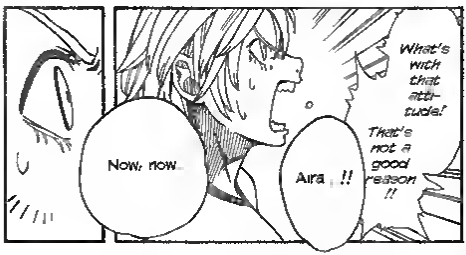
IT'S NOT A FANTASY!!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I WANT TO HEAR IT FROM YOU!!

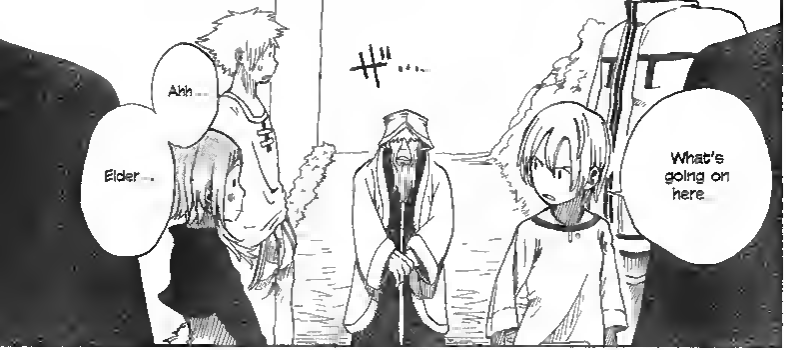
You need to stop all this fantasizing and start doing a little work around here. How about that?
You should be aware of the hardships of living here too.

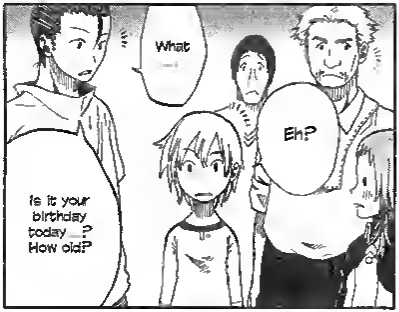
Even children much younger than you are working already.

After all, it's been 400 years...
This is how we've lived all this time.
There's no guarantee about that, right...

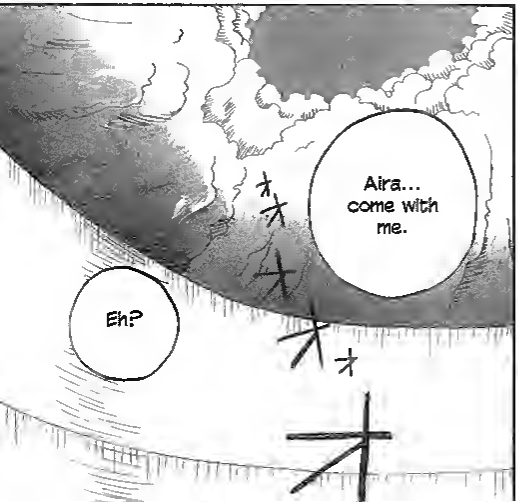

If we can just get out of here, all our hardships may be gone!
Why are all of YOU such defeatists!?
Why doesn't everyone think harder about crossing over the wall!?


Now, now...
Aira...!!
That's not a good reason!!
What's with that attitude!


Ahh...
Elder...
What's going on here...

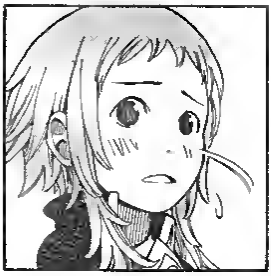

What...!
Eh?
Is it your birthday today...? How old?

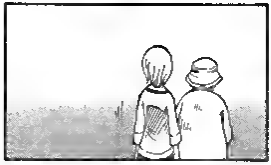
Are you making trouble even on your birthday, hm?
Hm, Aira?

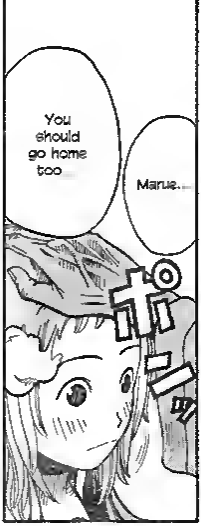

Aira... come with me.
Eh?

14... I guess?
I totally forgot about it...
Yes! I will also be 14 soon, right? Aira

.....



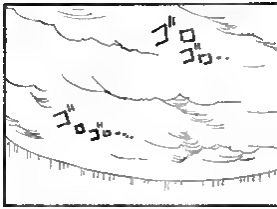


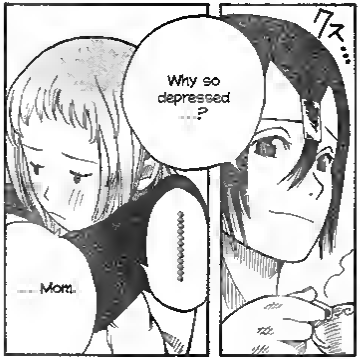

You should go home too
Marue...
ポニッ

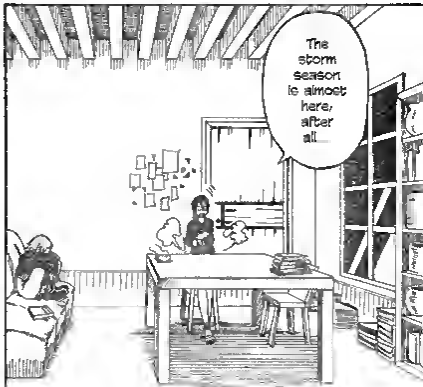
Eh? What? Where are we going?
All right, just come along
Everyone else, you can go home

カチ...

going to rain tonight
...It's probably


ゴロゴロ..
ゴロゴロ...


Why so depressed ...?
... Mori.
フス...


The storm season is almost here, after all...

Why doesn't everyone aim to get out of here!?
I... understand what they're all saying.
But... I think Aira is right too...!!
But...
We, mothers, and all the adults are here because of you children
We have to make sure you have food on your table every day... That's our duty...
If everyone could do it, they would, right...?
But!
When they were children, allll of them had a dream to cross over the wall, you know?
All the adults here...
But...

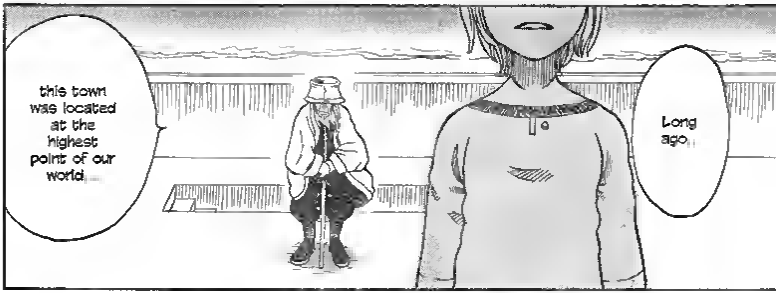
Is that true!?
Yup, it's true.
ガシッ ガシッ
The old man next door, and the old lady across, too... Of course, that includes me as well.
That is why...
It's fine for all of you to have dreams.
Having dreams is something very important for children, you know?
Because, to be able to dream with such innocence...
is something only children can do.
Mom!
I... I'm going to look for Aira!!
バタン
クスッ
タタタタ!
...Yes.
To dream with such innocence...

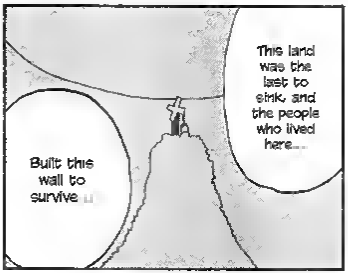
Marue...
It's something only children can do...
Heey...
ヒョォォォ
ピョォォォン
Isn't this place out of bounds?
All those times you lectured us, wasn't it about this area?
How much farther are you taking me?
Aira...
What
Heeeeey~!!
You're very ro sy~ We're almost there...

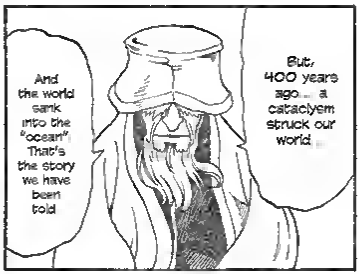
I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
Hah?
What the heck... are you saying...!!
HAAH!?
WAIT! WAIT WAIT!!
Then...
It'll take us to the top of the "wall".
If we use this elevator...
Wait..
What are you saying? Old man...

GET ON, AIRA.
IT'LL SHOW YOU... EVERY-THING.
Can you really ...
Can you really see outside the wall, old man !?
Why do we have some-thing like that here ...!!
... Oh, o!.. this thing is climbing higher ...
THAT...
IS SOMETHING YOU WILL SEE FOR YOUR-SELF...
THIS IS IT...

WORLD.
ゴロ。ゴロゴロゴロ…
THE OUTSIDE …
…What…
is this …
THE WORLD THAT ALL OF YOU DREAM OF…
ゴオオ
SANK A LONG, LONG TIME AGO…
オオオ


this town was located at the highest point of our world...
Long ago...


This land was the last to sink, and the people who lived here...
Built this wall to survive...

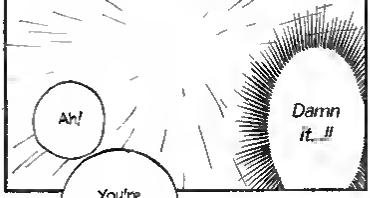

But, 400 years ago... a cataclysm struck our world...
And the world sank into the "ocean". That's the story we have been told

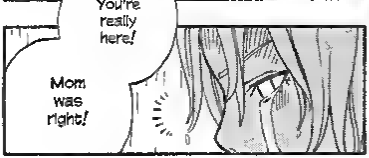
We don't even have...
a "place to go".

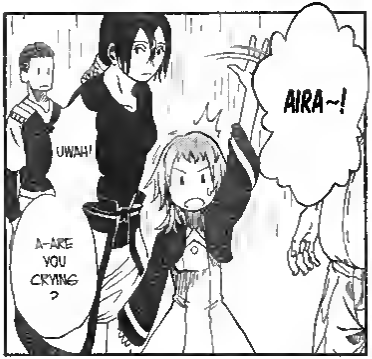
Not a single person exists who's seen this and not thought, "It's the end of the world."
It's not that we have no "means to go"...
Do you under-stand?

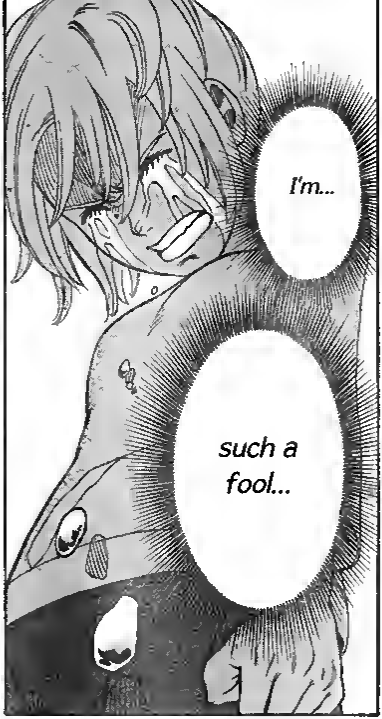
It is this, in fact, that is the hopeless-ness we face...
DRIP
Sooner or later, this ocean will rise as well, and we'll all be swallowed up.
ゴロゴロゴ...
DRIP
So, before their time comes...
We can let them continue to dream...
And... when a child turns 14 years of age,
The then presiding Elder will show this to him or her.
That is correct.
Yes...
Wait a minute...! That means...

HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN.
ALL OF THE ADULTS HERE...
Shut up!! Let me do what I want!!
Stop playing a fool, Aira!!
ARE THE CHILDREN
I'll go to the outside world!!
I'm
I'm going to show you! I'll definitely get out!!
Hah!!
The only thing you do all day long is go on and on about your fantasies!!
THE ONLY ONES WHO DON'T KNOW


Damn it...!!

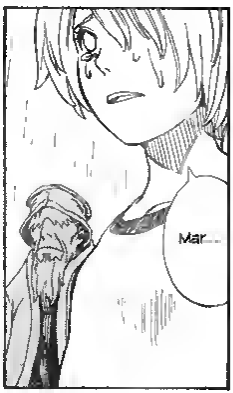

Ah!
You're really here!
Mom was right!

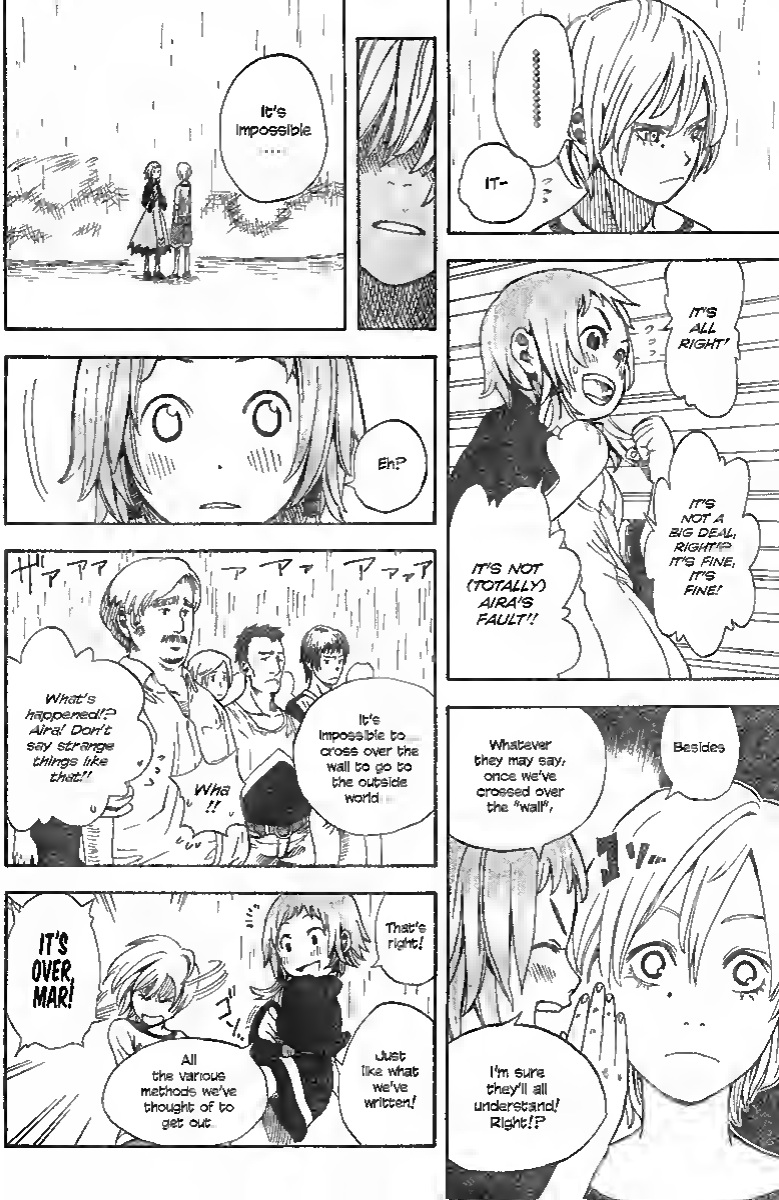

AIRA~!
UWAH!
A-ARE YOU CRYING?


I'm...
such a fool...

Aira!
I knew it, everyone got really angry at you, huh?
Are you all right?
Mar...

It's fine with me, Aira...
When I told you about this,
I was prepared to let you tell her as well.


Mar...

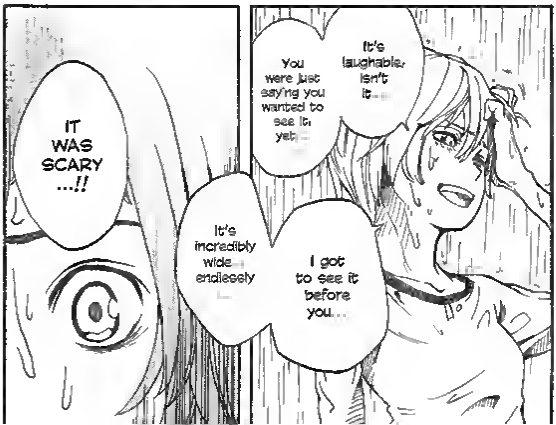

It's impossible
IT-
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, RIGHT!? IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE!
IT'S NOT (TOTALLY) AIRA'S FAULT!!
Eh?
What's happened!? Aira! Don't say strange things like that!!
Wha !!
It's impossible to cross over the wall to go to the outside world
Besides
Whatever they may say, once we've crossed over the "wall",
I'm sure they'll all understand! Right!?
That's right!
Just like what we've written!
All the various methods we've thought of to get out
IT'S OVER, MAR!

You haven't been there!!
But, I...
This isn't right! Why?
.....Why are you saying that? Aira...
Please don't say that when you haven't been there!!
Things that are impossible are just impossible!!
ピィィィ!!
It's over Marin. I don't care about the outside world any more...
I'VE SEEN IT! OUTSIDE THE WALL !!!
ザァァァァ
What?
Haa...
Haa...

Do you think I could even make up something like that...?
I'm not lying.

Anything and everything... the whole world has sunk to the bottom of the water.
It's the ocean.

Is it true?


IT WAS SCARY...!!
It's incredibly wide endlessly...
You were just saying you wanted to see it, yet...
It's laughable, isn't it...
I got to see it before you...

No way that can't be true
Because that's just not possible...!
It's the truth!!

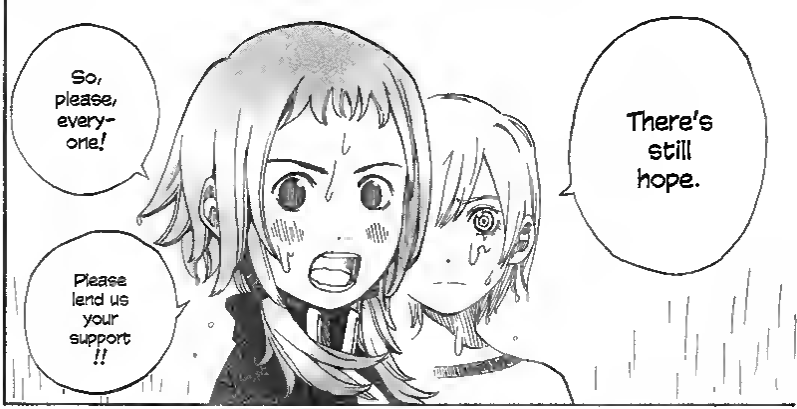
Is that why you're giving up?
!!
Do you even understand how I'm feeling right now ...!?
HOW COULD YOU EVEN UNDER-STAND ...!?
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT YOUR-SELF!!
You haven't seen it!!
But...!!
Our dreams... the world we'd aimed for...
BUT, WHAT!?
It's been gone for over 400 years!
We don't know that for sure yet!!
If we keep going, farther and far-ther...!!
So you're giving up just like that!?
This isn't you ...!!
This isn't the Aira I know !!!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH ...!
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD ANY MORE!!
SHUT UP SHUT UP!!

THEN, TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD DO!!!
ズル…
……
Mitr…
ハァ…
ハァ…
Ahh…
ザァァァァァ

What should I do...?
I don't know any more...
I hate this...
I don't want it to end like this...
Hey, Aira...
Listen to me...
I wanted to go...!
To the outside world...!!

I already know about the ocean outside the wall.
ザワ…
!?
!?
Some time ago……

But, you know...
The world was destroyed by a cataclysm...
The fact that the other side of the wall was nothing but ocean, and how 400 years ago
Remember when I sneaked into the no. 4 tunnel without permission and read the books there
And, you know, everything was written there
There was nothing written about everybody in the world being sunk under the ocean.
Everyone, listen up too!!
If it's like what everyone thinks... If the world has really sunk and is no more...
Our situation may indeed be hopeless...
There may not be a future either
But!


So, please, everyone!
Please lend us your support!!
There's still hope.

In any case, we don't have enough information yet!
I'll read them all!!
I beg you!
No matter how many books have been trapped in there, dig every single one of them out!

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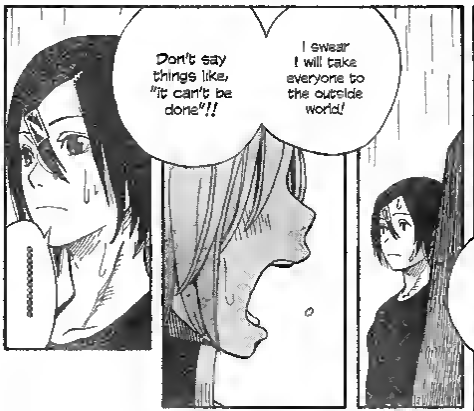
ドヨ…
"Hope"?
Lend our support, you say. But, Marue-chan…
Does such a thing really exist…?


Don't say things like, "it can't be done"!!
I swear I will take everyone to the outside world!
……

ガヤガヤ
There's no way we can do it, right?
Well, no. There's still…
We all have our own lives to take care of… right?
Saying things like that out of the blue…

After all, when all of you were children...
Wasn't that your dream too?
...YEAH!
THAT'S TRUE!!
Well done, child
Hmm...

When I was a child, I always had that dream...
To go to the outside world ...!!
If you're saying that dream could come true, then I...
I will support you in any way I can!!
ME TOO!!
Ever since I saw that ocean 3 years ago, I have always...!!
I've kept on dreaming!! To go to the other side of the wall...!!
Me too!
And me!!
Count me in too!" I'll support you!!
Oh! If you're talking about that, it's the same for me too.
What are you saying!? When I was a child too ...!!
Marue-chan said so! I'm sure it'll come true!!
Hahaha!! Our dreams of the past may actually come true now!!
We'll show our kids what we can do!"
Things will get interesting again "
Yeah !!
Mar
All we have to do is bring the books out, right? Leave it to us!!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S DO IT!!
LET'S GO!! TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD !!
Okay! Let's make everyone's dreams come true!!

Well, that was because I had a "doubt."

ガラガラ

ヒタヒタ...

Why did I...

make this declaration, "There's still hope" ...

あー

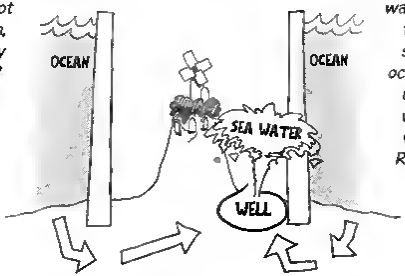
あー

Why does fresh water come out from the well?

Right next to where the new tunnel is

There is a well which serves as the only source of fresh water for this town.

In other words, wouldn't that prove that we were not in the middle of the ocean, but actually surrounded by land? So, in other words? The true nature of the "cataclysm" that befell 400 years ago My only conclusion is...



If what everyone was saying were true, that the wall was surrounded by an ocean that we'd sunk under, then there wouldn't be fresh water in the well Rather, it should be sea water.

If we go by that theory, everything comes to a consensus!

カリ カリ カリ…

IT WAS A LAND SUBSIDENCE

Which means, the world didn't sink..!

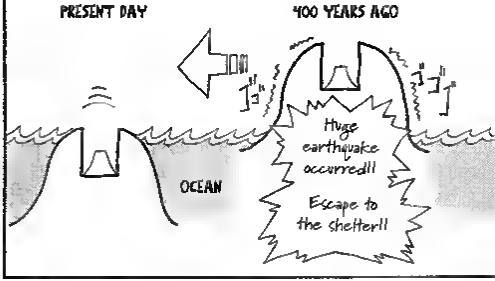
The ones who sank were us!

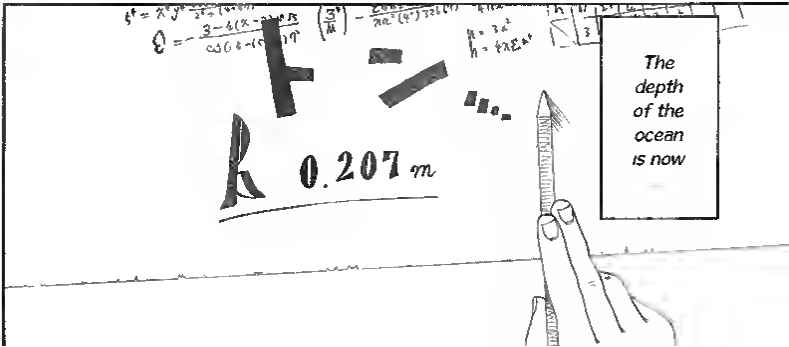
And on top of that, the result of my calculations shows.

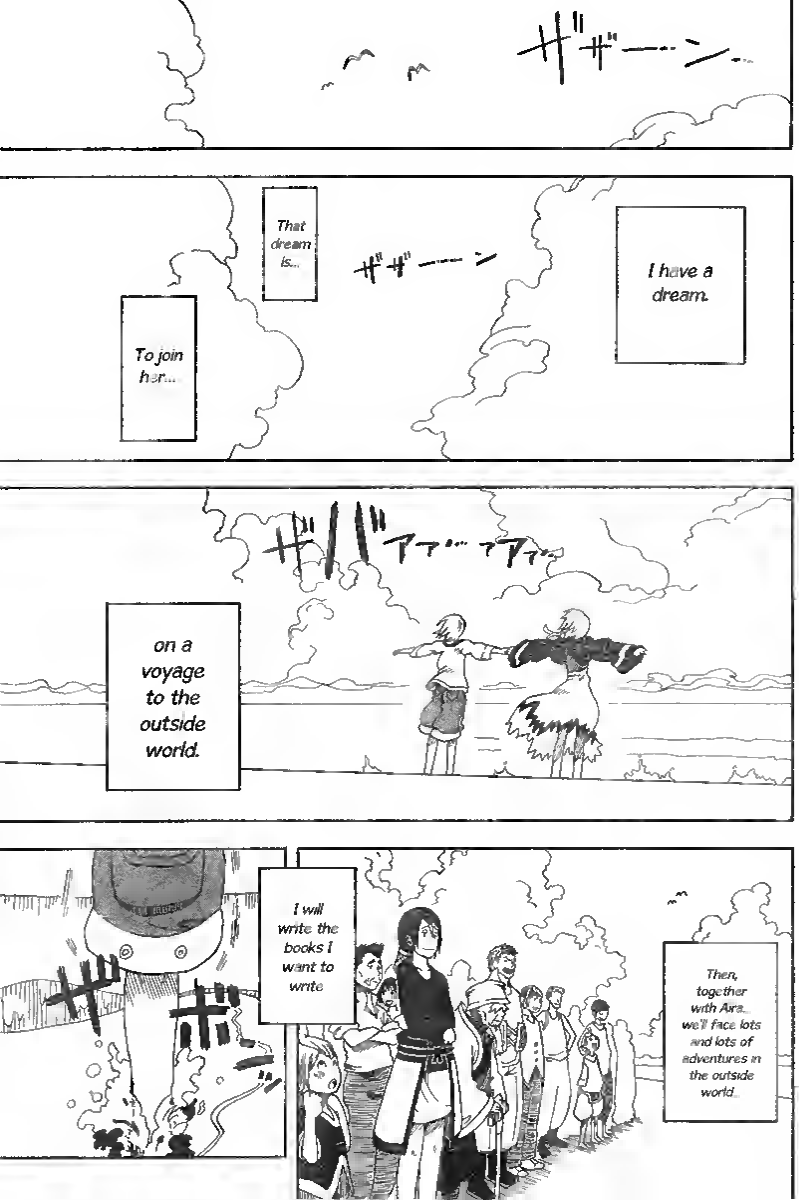
Then, the land continued to sink as it did until now. This is result

This wall is a strong shelter built by the people 400 years ago to escape from a large scale land subsidence.

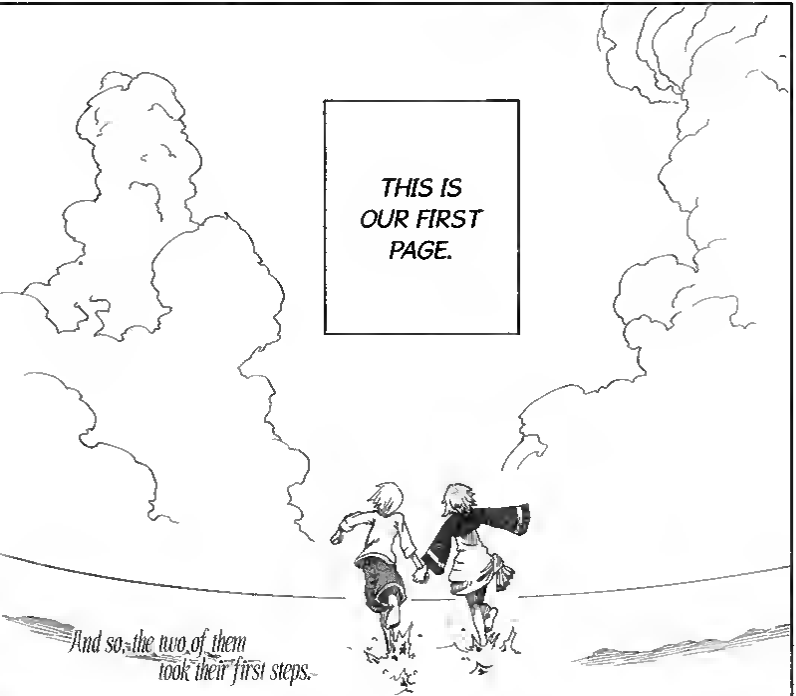
In other words, this is what happened.






ザーン…
That dream is...
ザザーン
I have a dream.
To join her...
ザザアアアアアア…
on a voyage to the outside world.
I will write the books I want to write
Then, together with Aira... we'll face lots and lots of adventures in the outside world.

Hey, Mar
Thank you. It's all because of you
Eh? Ahh... yes, so it is!!
Just checking, but, this is the outside world, right?
Hey, hey!
Amazing! It's amazing!! This is our first step to realizing our dream!!
I looked at it with such despair, and yet...
The first time I saw this ocean...
ギュ
Right now...
I am so excited.



island (アイランド) end